

We want to register, in the strongest possible terms, our protest against the FCC's consideration of dropping the cross-ownership ban of a newspaper and a TV station in the same geographic area by a single company. It is quite clear that pressure to drop this ban is coming from companies who stand to profit from it, not from consumers or journalists (or, for that matter, entertainers) who wish to have and to provide something more than brainless news and entertainment.

Already we are getting news from media conglomerates whose driving motivation is profit, not information. Even to consider concentrating the control of the airwaves and of print journalism in fewer and fewer hands is, in our opinion, contrary to the interests of a democracy. Then to cloak this move in patriotic language, as Mr. Powell has done, is the sheerest cynicism.

In order to stay informed, if the present trend toward deregulation by the FCC continues, Americans will be forced to turn to news sources abroad.

We urge the FCC not to lift the cross-ownership ban.

Rae and Gene Stoll